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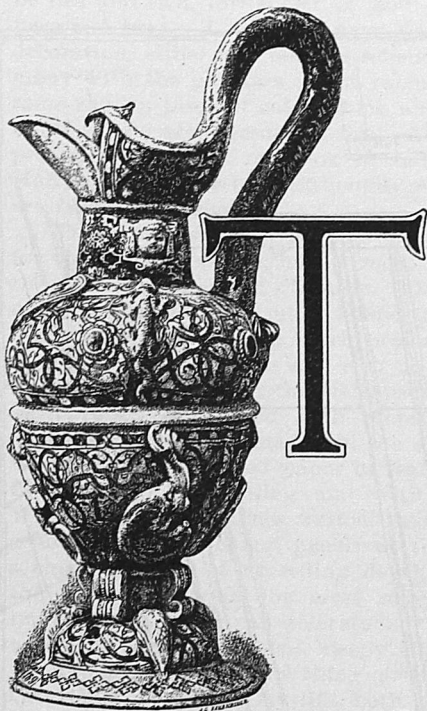
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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

## A NOVELTY IN VASES.



### THE MODERN BATH.

THE Turkish bath has long since passed beyond the domain of mere luxury, and is coming to be regarded as one of the absolute necessities of anything like an advanced civilization. The philosopher who measured national progress by the use of soap only went half way. The standing of a community can to-day be closely gauged by the extent to which it uses the Turkish bath. As a separate establishment, occupying entire buildings, as an attachment to the great hotels, or

as a popular adjunct to the club house and the public gymnasium, it has steadily been finding a foothold in every quarter of New York. And now it becomes a feature of the splendid apartment houses which are springing up on every side.

No one who has ever had occasion to pass the corner of Broadway and Fifty-fifth Street can have failed to notice and admire the Ariston, one of the most substantial and beautiful apartment houses in the city. To the proprietor, Mr. Hoefer, belongs the credit of having been the first to establish a luxurious bath in this class of residences. And he has carried out his ideas with such perfection of detail and such excellent taste and judgment, that our readers will find his establishment a model from which they can obtain many valuable suggestions for future use. We illustrate herewith the plunge bath and the sudatorium.

The baths are entered on the Fifty-fifth Street side of the Ariston, where the visitor finds a commodious and handsome office. The dressing rooms are spacious and handsomely furnished with every convenience. The sudatorium is light, well ventilated and pleasant. The floors and walls are of marble, tile and porcelain brick. A physician, who gives electric baths if desired, is always in attendance.

It is singular that thus far no one of the millionaires who have erected the palatial residences which line Fifth Avenue and the adjacent streets, has yet conceived the idea of erecting a Turkish bath among the luxurious appointments of his home. Workshops, printing offices, book-binderies, billiard rooms, bowling alleys, swimming baths, gymnasiums, almost every thing in fact which goes to please the taste of the owner or his family is to be found in one or another of these houses except the Turkish bath. And yet no one can enter one of the leading public establishments of the kind without meeting some representative of the wealthiest and most cultured families of the city.

Of course sooner or later Mr. Gulphstreme will get the notion in his head, and the fashion once set a Turkish bath will be one of those things which no gentleman's house can be without. It will be a great leveller; pimples as a badge of aristocracy will speedily be banished from the land. Mrs. Gulphstreme will issue cards for an "11 o'clock bath," and show her admiring friends her portrait as Venus Aphrodite by Tiffany or Lafarge in the stained glass of the roof, or descant glibly anent the superb tile pictures of a Roman bath by Alma Tadema, which are let into the walls along with other tiles by the first artists of Europe.

A new and original field will be opened to the decorative artist, with vast possibilities of fame and fortune.

In Turkey, where women are represented to be the most beautiful on earth, they have a proverb that "Beauty is first-born of the bath." If the American belle ever gets thoroughly indoctrinated with this idea, kettledrums, four o'clock teas, the kermess, slumming, or running across to Paree, will be regarded as having been very mild types of popular craze. Endorsed by such physicians as Wm. A. Hammond, Austin Flint, L. A. Sayre, John T. Metcalf, W. H. Van Buren and George T. Elliott it is not singular that the use of the Turkish bath has been growing year by year, or that vast sums of money have been spent in the fitting up of luxurious and beautiful bathing establishments.

The first American architect who, in planning a house for the millionaire who shall be born of the next consolidation or corner, provided for a Turkish bath, will have taken a long step toward supremacy over his fellow craftsmen.

ON page 81 we illustrate several specimens from a recent importation of French vases, which present some novel features. They are made of fine hard porcelain, such as is ordinarily employed in the manufacture of French china table ware. Heretofore art wares have been almost without exception made of earthenware or faience, but the new specimens are notable as being made from the same clay and by the same processes as those used in the production of fine table ware. The colors are all underglaze, which is a novelty as applied to art porcelain. There are six colors, gray, pearl, turquoise, celladon, rose and ivory. The decorations are overglaze and consist of clouded or mottled gold in dashes and marblings and in what is known as modeled gold in relief, in figures, ferns, sprays, vines and various floral patterns. The effect is exquisite, having a depth of coloring and richness that is altogether unique. The forms of many of these vases are especially pretty and graceful, and in others their quaint shapes and odd decorations will commend them to all connoisseurs.

This variety of underglazing is a specialty with the manufacturers of these goods, and the variety in color is one of their latest achievements. Until last year the dark blue, which has been so much admired, was the only color produced in perfection at Limoges. The national factory at Sevres has hitherto been the only establishment where any assortment of colors has been successfully used. The six colors in the vases illustrated place these manufacturers—Messrs. E. Gerard, Dufraisseix & Morel—as the only competitors of the national factory at Sevres, as this is the only manufactory having more than six colors on its palette.

## MANISSES HOTEL, BLOCK ISLAND.

ONE of the most delightful summer resorts of the Atlantic coast is Block Island, R. I., and a pleasant stopping place is the Manisses Hotel. Fifteen miles out to sea it affords a cool and healthful climate, superb bathing and fine bass and blue fishing. Daily steamers run to and from the main land and a new submarine cable affords easy communication with the rest of the world. Mr. E. A. BROWN, the representative of the hotel, can be found daily at the office of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for the purpose of giving information and showing plans of the Manisses, and to make rates for intending visitors.

Appointments can be made by which Mr. Brown will call on parties at their residences for the same purpose, either day or evening.

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS.

THE late James Lick in his will left \$100,000 for a bronze monument in San Francisco, to represent the history of California. The trustees of the fund are now ready to receive designs on paper. Full details of all the conditions are given in an advertisement on page 96 of this issue, and the attention of artists everywhere is invited. Two prizes are to be given to unsuccessful competitors.

